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Macroeconomic policy questions: international trade and development

Egypt:* draft resolution

International trade and development

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 56/178 of 21 December 2001, 57/235 of 20 December 2002, 58/197 of 23 December 2003, 63/203 of 19 December 2008, 66/185 of 22 December 2011, 67/196 of 21 December 2012, 68/199 of 20 December 2013, 69/205 of 19 December 2014, 70/187 of 22 December 2015, 71/214 of 21 December 2016 and 72/202 of 20 December 2017,

Recalling also its resolutions 59/221 of 22 December 2004, 60/184 of 22 December 2005, 61/186 of 20 December 2006, 62/184 of 19 December 2007, 64/188 of 21 December 2009 and 65/142 of 20 December 2010,

Reaffirming its resolution 70/1 of 25 September 2015, entitled "Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development", in which it adopted a comprehensive, far-reaching and people-centred set of universal and transformative Sustainable Development Goals and targets, its commitment to working tirelessly for the full implementation of the Agenda by 2030, its recognition that eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, is the greatest global challenge and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development, its commitment to achieving sustainable development in its three dimensions — economic, social and environmental — in a balanced and integrated manner, and to building upon the achievements of the Millennium Development Goals and seeking to address their unfinished business,

Reaffirming also its resolution 69/313 of 27 July 2015 on the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development, which is an integral part of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, supports and complements it, helps to contextualize its means of implementation targets with concrete policies and actions, and reaffirms the strong political commitment to address the challenge of financing and creating an enabling environment at all levels for sustainable development in the spirit of global partnership and solidarity,

* On behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China.

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Reaffirming further its resolution 72/279 of 31 May 2018 on the repositioning of the United Nations development system in the context of the quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system,

Recognizing that international trade is an engine for economic growth and poverty reduction, that it contributes to the promotion of sustainable development and that it is recognized as one of the action areas of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda and one of the means of implementation of the 2030 Agenda,

Recognizing also that multilateral rules and disciplines are the best guarantee against protectionism and are fundamental to the transparency, predictability and stability of international trade,

Recognizing further the critical role of women as producers and traders and the need to address their specific challenges in order to facilitate the equal and active participation of women in domestic, regional and international trade,

Reiterating the pledge that no one will be left behind, reaffirming the recognition that the dignity of the human person is fundamental, and the wish to see the Goals and targets met for all nations and peoples and for all segments of society, and recommitting to endeavour to reach the furthest behind first,

Recommitting to ensuring that no country or person is left behind and to focusing our effort where the challenges are greatest, including by ensuring the inclusion and participation of those who are furthest behind,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Trade and Development Board of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development[1] and the report of the Secretary-General;[2]

2. *Reiterates* that countries will not be able to achieve the ambitious Goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development[3] without a revitalized and enhanced global partnership and comparably ambitious means of implementation, and that a revitalized global partnership will facilitate an intensive global engagement in support of the achievement of all the Goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda, bringing together Governments, civil society, the private sector, the United Nations system and other actors and mobilizing all available resources;

3. *Reaffirms* that international trade remains an engine for inclusive growth and poverty eradication and that it contributes to the promotion of sustainable development, structural transformation and industrialization, particularly in developing countries;

4. *Also reaffirms* the commitments made through the adoption of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development[4] in, inter alia, international trade as an important action area for sustainable development;

5. *Further reaffirms* that global collective action through multilateral trade cooperation is essential in tackling challenges to development, that revitalizing a global partnership is critical for the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals and that the multilateral trading system continues to be the cornerstone of such a partnership and should be regarded as a global public good;

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[1] A/73/15 (Part I) and A/73/15 (Part II).

[2] A/73/208.

[3] Resolution 70/1.

[4] Resolution 69/313, annex.

6. *Notes with concern* that the multilateral trading system is increasingly affected by insufficient progress in multilateral trade negotiations under the Doha Round, among other developments;

7. *Recommits* to promoting a universal, rules-based, open, transparent, predictable, inclusive, non-discriminatory and equitable multilateral trading system under the World Trade Organization, as well as meaningful trade liberalization;

8. *Emphasizes* the need to combat protectionism in all its forms and to rectify any trade-distorting measures that are inconsistent with World Trade Organization rules, recognizing the right of countries, in particular developing countries, to fully utilize flexibilities consistent with their World Trade Organization commitments and obligations, and emphasizes that the work of the World Trade Organization shall maintain development at its centre, with provisions for special and differential treatment remaining integral;

9. *Strongly urges* States to refrain from promulgating and applying any unilateral economic, financial or trade measures not in accordance with international law and the Charter of the United Nations that impede the full achievement of economic and social development, particularly in developing countries;

10. *Welcomes* the entry into force of the Agreement on Trade Facilitation of the World Trade Organization on 22 February 2017, calls upon members of the World Trade Organization that have not yet done so to ratify the Agreement, and stresses the importance of providing developing and least developed countries with assistance and support for capacity-building in implementing the Agreement;

11. *Notes* the commitments to working to ensure that bilateral and regional trade agreements complement the multilateral trading system and are open, transparent, inclusive and consistent with the rules of the World Trade Organization, and also notes that plurilateral trade agreements with broad participation that are consistent with the rules of the World Trade Organization can play an important role in complementing global liberalization initiatives;

12. *Emphasizes* the importance of facilitating the accession of developing countries to the World Trade Organization, recognizing the contribution that their accession would make to the rapid and full integration of those countries into the multilateral trading system;

13. *Urges* the acceleration of the accession process without political impediments and in an expeditious and transparent manner for developing countries that have applied for membership in the World Trade Organization, and reaffirms the importance of that organization's decision of 25 July 2012 on accession by the least developed countries;

14. *Welcomes* the signing of the agreement establishing the African Continental Free Trade Area at the tenth extraordinary summit of the African Union, held in Kigali on 21 March 2018;

15. *Takes note* of the outcome of the eleventh Ministerial Conference of the World Trade Organization, held in Buenos Aires from 10 to 13 December 2017, and expresses its appreciation to the Government of Argentina for hosting the meeting;

16. *Looks forward* to the convening of the twelfth Ministerial Conference of the World Trade Organization in Astana from 8 to 11 June 2020, and expresses its appreciation to the Government of Kazakhstan for hosting the meeting;

17. *Recalls* the importance of members of the World Trade Organization working together with a view to achieving positive outcomes at the twelfth Ministerial

Conference and beyond in a balanced, inclusive and transparent way, with a sense of urgency and solidarity;

18. *Reiterates* the important role of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development as the focal point within the United Nations system for the integrated treatment of trade and development and interrelated issues in the areas of finance, technology, investment and sustainable development, and in contributing to supporting the implementation of the 2030 Agenda;

19. *Invites* the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development to continue to monitor and assess the evolution of the international trading system and its trends from a development perspective, with particular attention to its potential contribution to the Sustainable Development Goals, and to monitor and assess persistent and emerging development challenges to trade from a sustainable development perspective, in accordance with its mandate;

20. *Recognizes* the commitment to continue to address the needs of small, vulnerable economies and to favourably consider the adoption of such measures as would facilitate their fuller integration into the multilateral trading system, taking into account the needs of small, vulnerable economies in all areas of negotiations, without creating a subcategory of members of the World Trade Organization, and in this regard encourages progress on the implementation of the World Trade Organization work programme on small economies, which supports their efforts towards sustainable development, as also reflected in the outcome document of the third International Conference on Small Island Developing States, the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway;[5]

21. *Calls upon* the relevant organizations of the United Nations system, within their respective mandates and resources, to ensure that no country and no one is left behind in the implementation of the present resolution;

22. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in collaboration with the secretariat of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, to submit to the General Assembly at its seventy-fourth session a report on the implementation of the present resolution and on developments in the international trading system, and decides to include in the provisional agenda of its seventy-fourth session, under the item entitled "Macroeconomic policy questions", the sub-item entitled "International trade and development".

[5] Resolution 69/15, annex.